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TAGS: PLOS

SUBJ: LOS; SECRETARY'S SPEECH OF APRIL 8

REF: STATE 085109

1, EMBASSY PRESENTED TEXT OF SECRETARY'S SPEECH TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY IN GUB MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON APRIL 9. MFA OFFICIAL EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR DELIVERY OF COPY; PROMISED TO BRING IT TO ATTENTION OF FOREIGN MINISTER; AND SAID GUB COMMENTS, IF ANY, WOULD BE FORTHCOMING AFTER TEXT HAD BEEN STUDIED.

2, EMBASSY ALSO TOOK OCCASION TO SOUND OUT GUB VIEW OF LAW OF SEA AS ANOTHER SOURCE HAD REPORTED THAT GUB REGARDS ITS POSITION ON LOS TO BE VERY CLOSE TO USG POSITION ON MOST ISSUES. MFA OFFICIAL EXPLAINED THAT ON "LEAST CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES," I.E., 12 MILE SOVEREIGNTY AND 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE, USG AND GUB POSITIONS COINCIDE.

3, HOWEVER, THERE ARE SOME DIFFERENCES ON MOST OTHER ISSUES. ON STRAITS QUESTION, GUB FAVORS "INNOCENT PASSAGE", BUT NOT BEING A STRAITS STATE, BURMA WOULD GO ALONG WITH ANY FORMULA ACCEPTABLE TO THOSE NATIONS MOST DIRECTLY AFFECTED. OFFICIAL NOTED AS AFTER-THOUGHT THAT GUB LOOKED ON THIS ISSUE AS OPPORTUNITY TO PROMOTE RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS, NAMELY MALAYSIA, AND GUB MOST LIKELY WOULD FOLLOW ANY MALAYSIAN POSITION ON SUBJECT. GUB ALSO NOT AFFECTED BY QUESTION OF ACCESS RIGHTS OF LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES AND WOULD "GO ALONG WITH GENERAL CONSENSUS". ON MOST OTHER ISSUES, PARTICULARLY DEEP SEABED REGIME, GUB WILL FOLLOW POSITION OF GROUP 77. THUS, DIRECT IDENTITY OF INTEREST BETWEEN GUB AND US ON LOS ISSUES SEEMS LIMITED. OSBORN

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